

OCT - 9 1997

VOLUME 31 NUMBER 4 PAGES 141-172 OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1997

M
8089+
CMN

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE



*A Publication Concerned With
Natural History and Conservation*

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE
MUSÉE CANADIEN DE LA NATURE
LIBRARY - BIBLIOTHÈQUE

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

Editor

Fenja Brodo

Associate Editor

Bill Gummer

Production Manager

Sandra Gushue

Production Assistant

Alan German

Mailing Team

Michael Murphy
Co-ordinator

Don Davidson

Nicol Lum

Mary Neo

David Smythe

Verna Smythe

Views expressed in *Trail & Landscape* and in its news supplement
The Green Line are not necessarily those of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club.

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

President

David W. Moore

Objectives of the Club: To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse the information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

Club Publications: THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, a quarterly devoted to reporting research in all fields of natural history relevant to Canada, and TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a quarterly providing articles on the natural history of the Ottawa Valley and on club activities.

Field Trips, Lectures and other natural history activities are arranged for local members; see "Coming Events" in this issue.

Membership Fees: Individual (yearly) \$23

Family (yearly) \$25

Sustaining (yearly) \$50

Life (one payment) \$500

Subscriptions to *Trail & Landscape*: (libraries and institutions): \$23
per year (volume)

Single copies of recent issues: \$6.00 each postpaid

Index to Vols. 1 - 20: \$10 postpaid; to Vols. 21-25 \$5 postpaid.

Membership application, correspondence :

THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB

Box 35069, Westgate P.O.

Ottawa, Ontario K1Z 1A2

Information:

(613) 722-3050

After 10 a.m.

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

Published by
The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club
Box 35069, Westgate P.O., Ottawa, Ontario, K1Z 1A2

Volume 31 Number 4
October – December 1997

Table of Contents

Welcome, New Members	142
FON Notes/ <i>Frank Pope</i>	143
<i>T & L</i> poems in Nero's New Book/ <i>Linda Jeays</i>	144
Providence/ <i>Jack Holliday</i>	146
Foragers Forever/ <i>Robert Nero</i>	147
June Beetle Bonanza/ <i>Jack Holliday</i>	148
November... and April/ <i>Jean McGugan</i>	150
Call for Nominations:	
The 1998 Council of The Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club/ <i>Frank Pope</i> ..	150
Woodland Angelica (<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>)	
New to the Ottawa District and Ontario/ <i>Daniel F. Brunton</i>	151
A Red-eared Slider in the Ottawa River/ <i>Stephen Darbyshire</i>	157
Field Sketching/ <i>Zoë Nolet</i>	160
Late Fall Bird Count 1996/ <i>Bruce M. Di Labio</i>	161
Imaginary Birds of the Ottawa Valley, Part III:/ <i>Chris Lewis</i>	164
Bird Feeder Relocation/ <i>Lee Cairnie</i>	165
Notice - Birds Committee Study Group	165
OFNC Web Site Update	165
Notice - Bird Counts Planned for the Ottawa-Hull District	166
Index to Volume 31	167
Coming Events	169

Welcome, New Members

Ottawa Area

Trevor Arnason
Diane L. Atsalinos
Roland K. Beshiri
Trisha Blasko
Wendy Boutros
Geoff H. Burbidge (Renewal)
Joan M. Chapman & Family
Angela J. Clark
David P. Critchlow
Janie DesRosiers
Constance M. Downes
Brenda J. Fooks
Judee E. Hollander
 Sylvia Little & Family
Violet MacLeod & Family

Ann M. May & Family
Ralph & Joy McGiffen
David I. Nicholson & Family
Sheila O'Neill
Glen & Nancy Pettinger
Mary Beth Pongrac
Beryl A. Rawlings
Wendy I. Ryan
Beatrice G. Schropp
Nancy A. Shortleff & Family
Peter Tobin & Lorna Kingston
Ruth Van Vieren & Jeff Campbell
Martha Webber
Charlotte & Jane Witty

Other Areas

Bruce Bennett, Whitehorse YK

R. A. Steele, Mill Village NS

Questions or comments about anything to do with our Club are always most welcome and will be responded to promptly.



Dave Smythe
Membership Committee
August, 1997

FON Notes

Frank Pope

Many of you will recall the controversy sparked by Club member Michael Runtz last February and March when he questioned the plan to release wild turkeys in Renfrew County. He acknowledged that wild turkeys had been released in parts of Ontario where they were found many years ago. Since there is no record of wild turkeys ever having been found in Renfrew County, however, he wondered why they were being released there and what the ecological implications might be.

You may not, however, be aware of the involvement of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (FON) in this issue. In a letter to the editor of *Arnprior's Chronicle Guide*, John Riley of the FON attempted to clarify the issue. I will quote from John's letter.

John pointed out that, in 1984, the FON and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters were both represented on the Wild Turkey Re-introduction Steering Committee. One of their objectives was "to provide viewing and hunting opportunities as wild turkey populations become established." The re-introductions were successfully completed in 1986 and the committee was dissolved. In his letter, John went on to support Michael in the following paragraph. "The Renfrew project introduces turkey well beyond its historic range, so it certainly seems fair to ask that we be clear about why it is being introduced and to ask about the ecological impacts of the introduction. In 1984, in correspondence between the Ministries of Natural Resources and of Environment, the question was raised about whether an environmental assessment should be done on the turkey re-introduction project. Ironically, the decision was taken that an environmental assessment was unnecessary because turkeys would not be introduced anywhere except where 'the species is already present or is known to have been present'."

Two other items seem worth mentioning. When travelling in Ontario, have you ever wanted to visit local natural areas but did not know where to go? I can testify that local travel information provides very little information of this sort. The problem was recently addressed by the FON with the release a 469 page book entitled "A Nature Guide to Ontario" edited by Winifred (Cairns) Wake. It sells for \$24 and just might be the reference you seek. It is available from the FON through their toll-free number: 1 800 440-2366.

The FON Annual General Meeting and Conference is always an interesting event. This year the FON teamed up with the Canadian Nature Federation for a joint conference. Hosted by the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club it convened in Windsor. Since the meeting was held in August delegates were treated to tall grass prairie in bloom.☐

T&L Poems in Nero's New Book

Linda Jeays

Spring Again and Other Poems, by Robert Nero. 1997.

Natural Heritage/Natural History Inc., Toronto. 80 pp. \$9.95

Tired of shorebirds? Baffled by goldenrods? Take a break and read **Spring Again** by Robert Nero. OFNC members have a special stake in his new book, since several of the poems first appeared in *Trail & Landscape*. So, why not relax with this poetic record of someone else's field work?

Nero responds spontaneously to the urge many of us have felt to preserve our nature experiences in words. For example, in "Expedition," he tells of the day he and his wife Ruth chipped black owl pellets out of the ice with a screwdriver. Usually, however, he describes simple everyday events, and much of the joy of reading this collection is in our flashes of recognition: *Yes. I noticed that, too.*

Ruth tending seedlings in March; sunlight shining through frost patterns on a window pane; migrants crossing the face of the moon – all are occasions for introspection, pen and paper. For this poet, the sight of a Short-tailed Shrew drinking from a backyard pond is as satisfying as the first Grizzly Bear he saw beside a mountain stream.

Nero sees in detail; feels in full. Life is experienced moment by moment: a dragonfly brushes his cheek; he discovers a robin's nest; he sees a Snowy Owl in "a sea of autumn grass." Each incident is perceived as a living poem which he can later recapture in words and investigate for relevance to his own existence.

While some of his keen observations are made in traditionally beautiful landscapes, this is nature poetry for the '90s, where the countryside includes four-

lane highways and landfill sites. Nero reminds us to be alert for flora and fauna in our increasingly urban settings. Watch for a Peregrine Falcon on a windy downtown street or gulls chasing each other in a parking lot. Consider the promise of spring evoked by a thawed patch of grass at the car wash ... in February. Nature provides incidents that feed the senses, even among the satellite dishes and hydro wires.

Since the basic biological drives of wild creatures for food, shelter and self-propagation closely parallel his own needs, Nero falls prey to some anthropomorphism. White Cabbage Butterflies are "amorously ignoring highway traffic"; a Brown Thrasher is "dancing." We may protest his subjective viewpoint, but if we are honest, most of us have named a garden squirrel or winced as a Sharp-shinned Hawk took a small bird from our feeders.

One section of the book contains love poems that are clearly autobiographical. They have the confessional quality of a diary. Nero reveals a love for his wife which is stimulated, strengthened and interpreted through the couple's interaction with nature. Falling leaves, a quail's cry and owl feathers become keys to passion. He loves, despairs and finds hope in the cycle of renewal that each spring brings. The lyrical free verse poems reveal the emotional man beneath the owl expert and scientific naturalist – Dr. Nero's other claims to fame.

His earlier poetry books, *Woman by the Shore* (1990) and *The Mulch Pile* (1993), both published by Natural Heritage, are thought-provoking works for the naturalist. But, with his latest volume, Robert Nero ventures into previously unexplored areas of self-revelation.

What we have now is raw, fresh, sensitive, sensual. And, after all, are these not the attributes of spring?

Biographical Note

Expert naturalist Dr. Robert W. Nero studied at the University of Wisconsin and has lived in Canada since 1955. Based in Winnipeg, he has done significant work on rare and endangered species for the Manitoba Department of Natural Resources. Nero keeps a tame Great Gray Owl which he takes to schools and other groups. This work is outlined in his book *Lady Gray: Owl with a Mission*. (For a review, see *The Canadian Field Naturalist*, vol. 109, no. 4, 1995, p. 487.)[□]

Providence

Jack Holliday



*Bur Oak acorn cup (2x lifesize) showing distinctive fringe along cup edge
Drawing by F. Brodo*

The riverside park area of Ottawa (between Island Park Drive and Tunney's Pasture) is blessed with some magnificent Bur Oaks. These trees, most over 100 years old, produce a bountiful crop of acorns each year. The acorns are food for crows, Blue Jays, grackles, and squirrels. Oh the squirrels! Black or grey, they thrive on the acorns, supplemented in season, by apples, berries, tulip bulbs, food scraps, and in winter by the generous humans who keep bird feeders filled for the squirrels to raid.

The acorns are the staple, on which every squirrel depends. September is the month that the acorns ripen, but long before that month the squirrels are busy eating the not-yet-ripe seed.

When the nuts ripen and drop to the ground, squirrels hasten to carry each and every one to an area where a hole can be hastily scratched, the nut firmly forced into the hole and covered, before the squirrel races to get the next one. Such activity. Favourite "spots" for the hiding of the nuts are places with soft earth such as found in gardens. Not surprising then is the unearthing of dozens of acorns by gardeners. Spring, summer, and fall, whenever we dig in our gardens, we unearth acorns.

Over the years my casual look at the "up-dug" acorns revealed a surprising number that had been damaged by a hole excavated in the top or the bottom

of the nut. "Some insect," I surmised, before tossing it aside (to be gleefully claimed by the next squirrel passing that way).

However, this year, I truly looked at some of these unearthed acorns. Not insects. No, these holes had been made by squirrels. The marks of the teeth were quite evident. That being so, the question arose as to why the squirrels would damage the nuts in this manner?

To me, the answer seems to be that the acorn is damaged in such a way that will prevent the acorn from growing. Either the bottom of the nut where the tap root will emerge, or the top where the cotyledons will develop, is chewed away so that acorn cannot develop normally.

In May, with moist, warming earth, the hundreds of thousands of buried nuts will stir into life, and soon the emerging cotyledons will be evident everywhere. Not so with the "doctored" nuts. Unable to grow, they will remain in the earth, protected from rot by the high concentration of tannic acid of which oaks are famous. They will certainly last through the summer, perhaps longer, fresh and plump as the day they were buried, to provide "out-of-season" food for the provident squirrels.♠

Foragers Forever

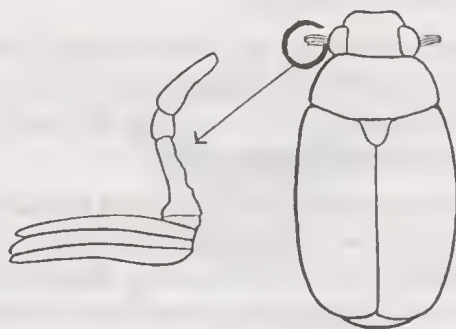
Robert Nero

The silent Blue Jay that suddenly
dropped to the frozen ground
beneath my window today
surprised me by plucking
an acorn out of the snow..
it took to a limb on the oak
shelled it with four sure strokes
then neatly swallowed it whole
before flying off to rejoin its companions.

They visit our feeders daily
swooping in like raiders
to loot our substantial provisions,
greedily gulping seeds to carry off
to store in secret hiding places;
today, though, one acorn retrieval
a reminder of Blue Jays' world
long before sunflower seeds.

June Beetle Bonanza

Jack Holliday



June Beetles are dull reddish-brown without any markings.

June Beetles, commonly called “June Bugs,” usually appear in my area in May. This year, 1997, because of the late spring, they first appeared in late May and so will probably be with us into June.

My “Peterson Field Guide to the Insects” states there are about 100 species of June Beetles (genus *Phyllophaga*) in North America. These beetles belong to the very large Family Scarabaeidae which are easily recognized by their very distinctive antennae, the last 3 or 4 segments of which are arranged like pages in a book. June Beetles always have only 3 such segments (see drawing).

The larvae live underground, eating the roots of grasses and other plants. As larvae they are known as “white grubs” because of their appearance. They are often dug up by gardeners, especially when sod is turned over. Sometimes these white grubs eat dime-sized pits into growing potato tubers.

The adults emerge from the ground in late spring and are seen zooming around electric lights. Strong fliers, they are not very manouverable once airborne, probably because of their unaerodynamic shape. The attraction of electric lights, combined with the lack of control, causes the beetles to crash into the lights, sometimes repeatedly, so that they injure themselves and fall to the ground. If severely hurt they lie on their backs, feet waving feebly into the air. Some manage to turn over and regain their feet and fly again, often to the same light.

Sometimes these beetles enter our houses through a partially open window and “zoom” around, their wings whirring, crashing into walls and furniture, and people. If not captured and returned outside, they expire, and are discovered, months later, behind the couch or dresser, still remarkably life-like, but desiccated.

They are said to feed on flowers and leaves, but I have never observed them doing so (probably because they feed at night). During the day they are invisible to most of us, except for the injured ones, scattered here and there on the roadway and sidewalks.

In May and June, most of our birds have nests of young. The rapidly growing young birds need a diet rich in protein. Shortly after dawn, the birds hurry to the bonanza of June Beetles lying helpless where they have fallen. Before long, all or most of this easily found food has been carried away by sparrows, starlings, robins and other birds.

Out in the “country,” fallen June Beetles are hidden by the grass, and while they may be safe from most birds, there are any number of hungry animals able to find and devour them. Anyone who walks the woodland trails soon notices that the scat of fox, skunk, racoon, contain the indigestible parts of many beetles, the legs, elytra (wing covers), etc., and can deduce that June Beetles form a large part of their diet at this time of year. No doubt other animals, from mice to bears, avail themselves of this food source. Any that are missed by the birds and other animals are soon dismembered and hauled away by the “undertakers” of the insect world, the ants.

Imagine how hungrily fish will swallow any and all the June Beetles which fall into lakes or rivers. In “days of yore” the June Beetle was much used as bait for fish. So much so that a spinning type of lure, very common 50 years ago and still used today, is named the “June-bug Spinner.” Many are the fish I’ve caught with this spinner but I’ve never used the “original” as bait.

We humans are prone to look upon the June Beetles “crashing around” as a useless menace, killing patches of our lawn in its larval stage, then banging into our windshields and windows and lights in its haphazard “aerial stage.” Some birds and animals, on the other hand, probably depend on this food “bonanza” as an essential source of protein when it is most needed to feed their new born and growing families.

Perhaps we should look upon the June Bug as a comical figure much like the Bumble-Bee. Indeed if the bee hadn’t first priority, on the name “Bumble,” the June Beetle could more appropriately be named the “Bumble-Beetle.”□

November and April

Jean McGugan

November is the cruelest month.
Even the birds are conspiring to leave -
in search of that Arizona rainbow,
or rudely pushing ever further south,
abandoning us to bittersweet winter.

Like April, they're returning from the distance,
prodigal, but unrepentant yet again,
shamelessly filling silent spaces with exuberance;
(as though we needed reminding of their absence),
granting us their fleeting presence, their ancient music.

Call for Nominations: The 1998 Council of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

Frank Pope, Chair, Nominations Committee

Any member of the Club may nominate a candidate for the Council. Nominations require a signature of the nominator and a statement by the nominee of willingness to serve in the position for which nominated. Please provide some relevant background information on the nominee. The deadline for nominations is 15 November 1997.☐

Woodland Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*) New to the Ottawa District and Ontario

Daniel F. Brunton



Figure 1. Dense stand of *Angelica sylvestris* along Leitrim Road Gloucester
(yes, Karen McIntosh is standing)

With almost 3,000 species world-wide, the carrot family (Apiaceae) includes a large number of species with economic and/or medicinal values, many of which are widely cultivated (Clapham *et al.* 1987). Domestic carrot, parsley and caraway are some familiar examples of these. Less familiar, perhaps, are the Angelicas (*Angelica* spp.). This genus consists primarily of tall, compound-leaved plants with large clusters of tiny white flowers. A number of the 60 species found in Temperate regions around the world have been domesticated and are commonly planted in gardens in Europe and in North America. Two examples are Wild Angelica (*A. archangelica* L.) and Woodland Angelica (*A. sylvestris* L.). Others, like Purplestem Angelica (*Angelica atropurpurea* L.) in eastern Canada and the northeastern United States, are used in traditional aboriginal treatments for a variety of ailments and concerns. The latter was colourfully extolled by 17th Century Virginia naturalist John Clayton as “ ... the most sovereign remedy the world ever knew in the griping of the Guts and admirable against Vapours ” (Erichsen-Brown 1979). High praise indeed !

Angelica in eastern Canada

Angelica is uncommon in most areas of southeastern Canada although it is locally common in some northern wetlands. Purplestem Angelica, for example, a species native to the Ottawa area, was only known from a collection obtained by John Macoun near Carp in 1903 (Gillett & White 1978). While doing field work for the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton's natural area survey, I collected this plant in a swampy, seepage area along the Ottawa River shore at the Buchans Bay West site (Brunton 1997) in West Carleton (*D.F. Brunton* 12,645, 22 July 1996, TRT, DFB; see footnote, p. 153.) It was also reported by S. Blaney and V. Brownell from near Sarsfield, in Cumberland (Magladry Road S site in Brownell 1997). It is found sporadically elsewhere in southern Ontario and Quebec. Other eastern Canadian species include Poisonous Angelica (*A. venenosa* (Greenway) Fern.), a southern upland taxon that is rare in Ontario and Canada (Oldham 1996). The European Wild Angelica is apparently cultivated in eastern Canada and also found as a native species (sometimes known as *Angelica laurentiana* Fern.) in Newfoundland/ Labrador and adjacent eastern Quebec (Scoggan 1979). Wild Celery (*Angelica lucida* L.) is another eastern subarctic/ boreal taxon, occurring in Ontario only in the James Bay region of Hudson Bay.

There is one clearly established, non-native species in eastern Canada, the Woodland Angelica (*A. sylvestris*). For many years it has been known only from the northern end of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia (Roland and Smith 1969). It is particularly abundant in and about Louisbourg National Historic Park near Sydney where it grows commonly as a weed in cracks between cobblestones, amongst ruins and as the dominant plant of adjacent regenerating fields. Its abundance at what was the major military settlement in North America for much of the 18th Century can be no co-incidence; the species was undoubtedly brought here from Europe for its reputed medicinal values (Erichsen-Brown 1979). Woodland Angelica becomes increasingly less common southward across Cape Breton but it can still be found in small numbers along roadsides as far south as at least the Halifax area (personal observation). Scoggan (1979) reports an unconfirmed sighting at Bonaventure, Gaspé, Quebec as the only other location for this species in Canada. It is, however, described as "*rapidly spreading along roadsides and waterways*" in the Fredericton and St. John areas of New Brunswick (Hinds 1986).

Woodland Angelica in the Ottawa District

Given the rarity of the one known Angelica in this area, I was surprised to discover an abundance of Woodland Angelica in a low, wet field and scrub area in the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton in the fall of 1993. It was common along wet ditches on either side of Leitrim Road immediately

west of Albion Road in Gloucester (D.F. Brunton 11,727, 9 September 1993 - DFB, DAO, TRT*) where it grows in wet, peaty sand along disturbed roadside edges. Hundreds, if not thousands, of towering Woodland Angelica plants dominate clearings in the scrubby swamp forest south of the road (Figure 1). A survey of similar habitat along roadsides within a few kilometers of the site, however, revealed no additional plants. As noted above, this species is previously unrecorded from Ontario (cf. Morton & Venn's (1990) checklist of Ontario flora) or interior North America.

Identification

The huge size of this plant (Figure 2) and its finely compound leaves (ternately-bipinnate, to be more precise) (Figure 3), eliminates all but a handful of other species. Most similar species can be eliminated because they lack the conspicuously inflated leaf petioles which are found on all Angelicas. The Regionally rare Cow-parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum* Michx.), however, also has an inflated leaf base but differs from the Angelicas by having broad, coarsely toothed, rather than divided, leaves. The trick, then, is to separate Woodland Angelica from the similar Purplestem Angelica. (European Wild Angelica is very similar to Purplestem Angelica and would be excluded from consideration with the elimination of the latter; the major differences between these two species are subtle characters of seed ornamentation).

The leaves of Woodland Angelica tend to be progressively smaller towards the top of the plant than those of Purplestem Angelica, becoming little more than inflated petioles near the flower clusters. A more useful and definitive feature, however, is the dense covering of minute, broad-based, white, pointed hairs on the upper sides of leaves, the upper stems and the pedicels of both the fruit and flowers. This gives the plant a soft, velvety feel. These hairs are absent or at most only sparsely distributed in Purplestem Angelica.

Characteristics of the seeds provide diagnostic identification features. The wall of each Woodland Angelica fruit (the pericarp) is stuck fast to the sides of the seed within it; it is impossible to lift the pericarp, or large portions of it, away from the seed. With Purplestem Angelica, however, the pericarp is not fused with the seed and can easily be lifted off intact or in large sections with a sharp-

*The three-lettered abbreviations indicate botanical herbaria. The three in this article indicate the collections of Daniel F. Brunton, of the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa and of the University of Toronto.



Figure 2. Karen McIntosh under shade (!) of single 3 m tall Woodland Angelica plant.

pointed implement. This exposes the bare surface of the seed, offering the final proof of identity. With the help of a hand lens numerous (20+) thin, parallel, resinous lines can be seen running the length of Purplestem Angelica seed surfaces. These oil canals are ducts containing volatile oils and are found in the seeds of many species in the Apiaceae (Harris & Harris 1994). There are substantially fewer (ca. 5) such oil canals on the seeds of Woodland Angelica.



Figure 3. The dissected (ternately-bipinnate) leaves of Woodland Angelica.

Since the pericarp of Woodland Angelica seeds is fused to the seed surface and difficult to remove, the number of oil canals is best determined by viewing a cross-section of the seed. Lastly, the seeds of Woodland Angelica are slightly smaller than those of Purplestem Angelica (5-6 mm long vs. 5.5 - 7.5 mm, respectively, Roland & Smith 1969).

Origins

Did the Gloucester plants come somehow from Nova Scotia or New Brunswick populations or from an independent European introduction? One can only speculate. A molecular comparison of genetic material from our local population with those of the Maritimes and of Europe may provide that answer. Curiously, Marsh Sow-thistle (*Sonchus palustris* L.), another huge plant of European fens and also a new species to Ottawa (and North America), was discovered only a few hundred metres away (Brunton & Crompton 1993). Could there be some connection to these two occurrences?

Future Concerns

Woodland Angelica is considered to be a common plant of fens in Great Britain and elsewhere in western Europe and does not appear to be particularly weedy in its native range (Clapham *et al.* 1987). It clearly is weedy, however, in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick (Crompton *et al.* 1988; White *et al.* 1993). At the very least, the Gloucester population must be monitored carefully because it is only a few hundred metres northwest of the Albion wetland (cf.

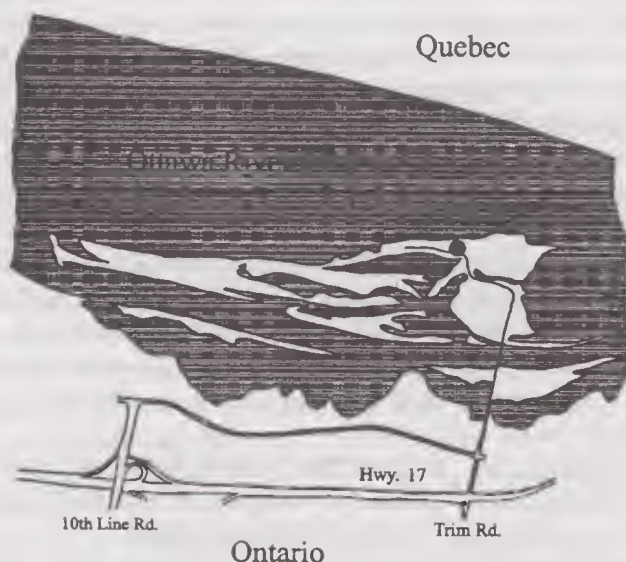
Dugal 1990; 1992). A dense growth of these large plants could do substantial damage to the remarkable and sensitive fen vegetation in this provincially significant site (Brunton 1995). Until we know how aggressive this species can be in invading Ontario and western Quebec wetland communities, we will not know if we have a potential wetland menace akin to the likes of Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria* L.) or Frog's-bit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae* L.). Hopefully, however, Woodland Angelica will be found to be no more than a spectacular but benign addition to the introduced flora of the Ottawa District and Ontario.

Literature Cited

- Brownell, V. 1997. Natural Area Summary Report for Magladry Road South (Site 62) in, *RMOC, Candidate Natural Area Evaluation*. Publication 28-08, Planning and Development Approvals Department, Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, Ottawa.
- Brunton, D. F. 1995. *Life Science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest in Site District 6E-12: A review and assessment of significant natural areas*. [Unpublished report] Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Kemptville.
- Brunton, D.F. 1997. *Summary Natural Area reports for Natural Areas west of the Rideau River (500 series)*. Planning and Development Approvals Department Report 28-08d, Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, Ottawa.
- Brunton, D. F. and C. W. Crompton. 1993. Marsh Sow-thistle, *Sonchus palustris* L. (Asteraceae) in Ontario: An addition to the introduced flora of North America. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 107: 341-344.
- Clapham, A.R., T.G. Tutin and D.M. Moore. 1987. *Flora of the British Isles* (Third Edition). Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- Crompton, C.W., J. McNeill, A.E. Stahevitch and W.A. Wojtas. 1988. *Preliminary inventory of Canadian weeds*. Technical Bulletin 1988-9E, Research Branch, Agriculture Canada, Ottawa.
- Dugal, A. 1990. Albion Road wetlands Part 1. *Trail & Landscape* 24: 56-78.
- Dugal, A. 1992. Leitrim-Albion Road wetlands Part 2. *Trail & Landscape* 26: 64-94.
- Erichsen-Brown, C. 1979. *Use of plants for the past 500 years*. Breezy Creek Press, Aurora.
- Gillett, J.M. and D.J. White. 1978. *Checklist of vascular plants of the Ottawa - Hull region, Canada*. National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa.
- Harris, J.G. and M. Harris. 1994. *Plant identification terminology: an illustrated glossary*. Spring Lake Publishing, Spring Lake.
- Hinds, H.R. 1986. *Flora of New Brunswick*. Primrose Press, Fredericton.
- Morton, J. K. and J. M. Venn. 1990. *A checklist of the flora of Ontario vascular plants*. Biology Series number 32, University of Waterloo, Waterloo.
- Oldham, M.J. 1996. *Natural heritage resources of Ontario: Rare vascular plants of Ontario*, Natural Heritage Information Centre, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Peterborough.
- Roland, A.E. and E.C. Smith. 1969. *The flora of Nova Scotia*. Nova Scotia Museum, Halifax.
- Scoggan, H. J. 1979. *The flora of Canada Part 4: Dicotyledoneae (Loasaceae to Compositae)*. National Museum of Natural Sciences Publications in Botany 7(4), Ottawa.
- White, D. J. , E. Haber & C. Keddy. 1993. *Invasive plants of natural habitats in Canada*. Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, Ottawa. □

A Red-eared Slider in the Ottawa River

Stephen Darbyshire



Map of the Petrie Islands.

The solid circle indicates the location where the turtle was found

Among my favourite places to ramble are the Petrie Islands near Cumberland in the Ottawa River. These are a series of islands and backwaters formed by alluvial deposits of clay and sand close to the Ontario shore. A road provides access to a sand quarry operation and a few houses at the northeast end of the island complex. Passing over two channels it ends on the northerly and largest of the islands. I described some interesting botanical features of the Petrie Islands in *T&L* a few years ago (Darbyshire 1986).

On May 18th, 1997, I headed out to the islands for some bird watching and general exploring. The river was still quite high and the road was flooded in places, although not too deeply to prevent access by cars. After parking at the gates of the sand quarry, I began to walk westward along the cottage road. The backwater to the south of the main island was flowing across the road to the river side. There was lots of accumulated flotsam scattered around by the

receding water. Picking my way along while trying to keep dry feet I noticed a turtle on a pile of vegetation. At first it seemed to be a painted turtle, but after picking it up it turned out to be an adult female red-eared slider, or red-eared turtle (*Trachemys scripta elegans*).

The natural distribution of the red-eared slider is, in general, the Mississippi River drainage area from northern Indiana and Illinois south to the Gulf of Mexico. The animal at the Petrie Islands was far north of its natural range. It is, however, not unusual to find red-eared sliders outside their native range. Red-eared sliders are the most popular turtle sold in the pet trade throughout North America. Untold thousands of young have been sold over the years through pet shops. Like many animals bought as pets, they are often later abandoned as their owners become bored or tire of the responsibility. Thinking it a kind act to let animals "go free" the turtles are released into environments where they do not belong and, frequently, do not survive. Wild red-eared sliders have been observed in at least five other locations in Ontario: Windsor, Hamilton, Kitchener, Toronto and Brantford (Oldham and Sutherland 1986, Weller and Oldham 1988, Oldham personal communication), the earliest record being from Cootes Paradise (Hamilton) in the early 1950's (Lamond 1994). The only place where these turtles have been definitely known to overwinter is at the Windsor site, but there is no evidence that they can successfully reproduce anywhere in Canada (Oldham and Sutherland 1986). In captivity 30-40 year-old specimens are known (Bowler 1977, Slavens & Slavens 1996) and a 50-75 year longevity is estimated for wild animals (Cagle 1950). Thus young turtles released in a non-natural site could survive for many years.

Red-eared sliders are related to our native midland painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta marginata*) and are similar in many aspects of their behaviour and feeding habits. They are largely aquatic, coming out of the water only to bask, lay eggs or to migrate to other water bodies. Sliders are largely sedentary, but some individuals may move distances of several kilometres to new water bodies (Webb 1961). Young turtles are mainly carnivorous, but they become progressively more omnivorous, or even largely herbivorous, as they mature (Webb 1961).

Red-eared sliders are easily distinguished from our native painted turtle at close range. On both sides of the head is a large red spot (hence the common name). On the bottom edge of the upper shell (the carapace) and on the tail there are no red markings. On the yellowish bottom shell (the plastron) there are large dark spots on each scale, which are sometimes confluent. There is a tendency for some male individuals to become darkly pigmented (melanistic) over most of the shell and skin obscuring the spotting and striping patterns.

The backwaters of the Petrie Islands with their thick vegetation and slow-moving waters are excellent habitats for turtles of all kinds. This turtle was found at about 9:00 a.m. on a bright sunny day. Its carapace measured 20.5 cm. The ambient air temperature was 11°C and the water temperature in the shallows of the backwater was 10°C. The turtle was considerably warmer than these temperatures as the cloacal temperature was measured at 16.5°C shortly after capture. Red-eared sliders become inactive at water temperatures below 10°C (Cagle 1960).

It is possible that the turtle was released earlier in the spring of 1997, although this is unlikely. The early date of its capture suggests that it was probably present here over the winter. A number of sliders have been captured in the Hamilton area in April and May (Lamond 1994), also suggesting that they over-winter there. Adult sliders, like painted turtles, will hibernate at the bottom where the water is deep enough not to freeze. Metabolism is normally slowed in a diving turtle and energy requirements are further reduced by the cool temperatures. Sufficient oxygen absorption is accomplished mainly by drawing water into the cloacal cavity. Hibernation conditions for sliders would be similar here in the Ottawa area to those in northern parts of the natural range, although our winter season would be considerably longer.

Last year in *Trail & Landscape*, David Seburn (1996) reported an encounter with a red-eared slider near the Rideau River south of Manotick. These two records from two major rivers in the district suggest that there may be many red-eared sliders present in the Ottawa area. David provides other interesting comments on the importation of turtles into Canada and their sale in local pet shops.

The turtle was not released back into the river, but is being kept in captivity. The red-eared slider is probably not a threat to native turtle populations, but there is no need to have any more exotic fauna and flora than have already been introduced.

Literature Cited

- Bowler, J. K. 1977. Longevity of Reptiles and Amphibians in North American Collections. *Herpetological Circular No. 6*. Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles. 32 pp.
- Cagle, F. R. 1950. The life history of the slider turtle, *Pseudemys scripta troostii* (Holbrook). *Ecological Monographs* 20: 31-54.
- Darbyshire, S.J. 1986. More on the Bladdernut Shrub. *Trail & Landscape* 21: 26-28.
- Lamond, G.W. 1994. The Reptiles and Amphibians of the Hamilton Area: An historical summary and the results of the Hamilton Herpetofaunal Atlas. Hamilton: *Hamilton Naturalists' Club*.
- Oldham, M. J. and D. A. Sutherland. 1986. *Ontario Herpetofaunal Summary 1984*. Essex Region Conservation Authority, and World Wildlife Fund Canada. 214 pp.

- Slavens, F. and K. Slavens. 1996. Reptiles and Amphibians in Captivity - Longevity Home Page. <http://www.halcyon.com/slavens/turtle.html#Trachemys>.
- Seburn, D. 1996. Turtle Trouble. *Trail & Landscape* 30: 149-151.
- Webb, R. G. 1961. Observations on the life histories of turtles (genus *Pseudemys* and *Graptemys*) in Lake Texoma, Oklahoma. *American Midland Naturalist* 65: 193-214.
- Weller, W.F. and M. J. Oldham. 1988. *Ontario Herpetofaunal Summary 1986*. Ontario Field Herpetologists. 221 pp.²⁴

Field Sketching

Zoë Nolet



In the April-June 1997 issue of *T & L* there was an article written by Mickey Narraway suggesting the recreation of Field Sketching, one of the special interest groups of the 1950's and 60's.

Several OFNC members responded and we have been sketching Tuesday afternoons. We go to various places such as Stony Swamp, Bruce Pit, Fletcher Wildlife Garden, Experimental Farm Arboretum and Maple Lawn Garden (and even had tea at the Maple Lawn Café). We also sketched in the gardens of Gaitane Dee, Zoë Nolet and Barb and Don Davidson.

We shall sketch outside as long as the weather permits, then we plan to meet and sketch at various indoor localities. Others are most welcome to join us. Beginners are encouraged to come out and be a part of this pleasant social group. If you are interested, please call Zoë Nolet at 726-0026.²⁴

Late Fall Bird Count 1996

Bruce M. Di Labio

This year's late fall bird count was slightly modified from the traditional 24 hour midnight to midnight count to a 24 hr period beginning at 3 p.m. October 26th and ending at 3 p.m. October 27th. This change follows the lead of the Kingston Field Naturalists Club and was widely accepted by our participants because the round-up at the end of the day could be shared and enjoyed by more people. A total of 118 species were found by 68 field observers. Participant numbers were up from last year's 64, however, the species total was down by 2.

Weather conditions were consistent over the time period with a high of 16°C and low of 4°C. Winds from the ESE were light on the 26th while winds on the 27th from the SW averaged 10 km/hr.

Highlights for the day included 10 Sandhill Cranes, found at their traditional location on Milton Road (representing a new record high for the Ottawa District), a Hudsonian Godwit, and both Iceland and Glaucous Gulls found at the Nepean Dump off Moodie Drive. Winter finches were scarce except for small numbers of Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak. Only one species of warbler, the Yellow-rumped, was located. Water birds were present in good numbers including all three grebes, and 26 species of ducks and geese. For the most part, birds of prey numbers were down from last year except for the Northern Harrier with an impressive total of 54. Overall, it was a very successful count and hopefully 1997 will be even greater.

I would like to thank all sector leaders and participants for their combined efforts, particularly Colin Bowen for typing the results, Mike Tate for providing the dinner and facilities for the compilation and Daniel St-Hilaire and Le Club des Ornithologues de l'Outaouais for organizing the Quebec sectors. I hope to see everybody again next year.

Top 5 Species	Totals for 1996	Top 5 Species	Totals for 1995
1. Canda Goose	15,135	1. Canada Goose	7,886
2. Ring-billed Gull	8,223	2. Herring Gull	3,791
3. Red-wing Blackbird	5,973	3. Red-wing Blackbird	3,780
4. Herring Gull	5,817	4. European Starling	3,693
5. European Starling	4,714	5. Ring-billed Gull	3,402

OFNC 1996 Fall Bird Count, October 26-27, 1996

	N.E.	N.W.	S.E.	S.W.	TOTAL
Common Loon	0	6	0	10	16
Pied-billed Grebe	8	0	2	1	11
Horned Grebe	0	6	0	2	8
Red-necked Grebe	0	4	0	2	6
Double-crested Cormorant	0	84	0	12	96
American Bittern	1	0	0	1	2
Great Blue Heron	13	8	19	18	58
Black-crowned Night Heron	0	0	0	3	3
Snow Goose	0	3	0	2	5
Brant	0	0	0	30	30
Canada Goose	572	2,170	6,908	5,485	15,135
Wood Duck	1	42	12	44	99
Green-winged Teal	0	0	54	55	109
American Black Duck	13	88	200	169	470
Mallard	40	120	1,118	561	1,839
Northern Pintail	0	0	9	2	11
Blue-winged Teal	21	0	0	8	29
Northern Shoveler	16	0	0	9	25
Gadwall	4	0	1	4	9
American Wigeon	442	3	114	46	605
Redhead	0	4	0	0	4
Ring-necked Duck	751	0	2	397	1,150
Greater Scaup	0	2	3	91	96
Lesser Scaup	4	327	17	385	733
Scaup sp.	0	700	0	0	700
Oldsquaw	0	8	0	12	20
Black Scoter	0	14	0	3	17
Surf Scoter	0	12	0	8	20
White-winged Scoter	0	20	0	13	33
Common Goldeneye	0	552	21	216	789
Bufflehead	0	15	0	31	46
Hooded Merganser	152	63	38	65	318
Common Merganser	1	18	8	30	57
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	6	6
Ruddy Duck	0	0	1	11	12
Turkey Vulture	1	2	2	1	6
Northern Harrier	4	2	13	4	23
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0	0	1	2	3
Cooper's Hawk	0	0	2	2	4
Broad-winged Hawk	0	1	0	0	1
Red-tailed Hawk	6	4	28	18	56
Rough-legged Hawk	7	4	9	4	24
American Kestrel	1	0	1	1	3
Merlin	0	0	0	1	1
Peregrine Falcon	0	0	0	1	1
Gray Partridge	0	0	29	0	29
Ruffed Grouse	3	2	13	12	30
Common Moorhen	0	0	0	1	1
American Coot	0	0	0	1	1
Sandhill Crane	0	0	10	0	10
Black-bellied Plover	0	0	14	0	14
Killdeer	0	15	9	9	24
Greater Yellowlegs	0	0	0	15	15
Lesser Yellowlegs	1	0	0	6	7
Hudsonian Godwit	0	0	0	1	1
Sanderling	0	0	0	1	1
White-rumped Sandpiper	0	1	0	0	1
Dunlin	0	0	1	0	1
Common Snipe	3	2	0	0	5
Bonaparte's Gull	0	0	4	0	4
Ring-billed Gull	689	479	2,533	4,522	8,223
Herring Gull	51	311	128	5,327	5,817
Iceland Gull	0	0	0	2	2

OFNC 1995 Fall Bird Count, October 26-27, 1996

	N.E.	N.W.	S.E.	S.W.	TOTAL
Glaucous Gull	0	0	0	1	1
Great Black-backed Gull	2	284	3	196	485
Rock Dove	236	201	1,188	777	2,402
Mourning Dove	19	27	222	49	317
Great Horned Owl	0	0	2	3	5
Barred Owl	0	0	1	1	2
Long-eared Owl	0	0	0	1	1
Northern Saw-whet Owl	0	0	1	0	1
Belted Kingfisher	2	0	3	0	5
Downy Woodpecker	7	8	30	19	64
Hairy Woodpecker	5	8	24	21	58
Northern Flicker	0	0	2	1	3
Pileated Woodpecker	3	4	5	3	15
Horned Lark	0	0	267	65	332
Blue Jay	31	96	271	193	591
American Crow	492	577	1,665	658	3,392
Common Raven	10	8	10	4	32
Black-capped Chickadee	154	167	655	410	1,386
Red-breasted Nuthatch	9	9	40	7	65
White-breasted Nuthatch	8	12	20	13	53
Brown Creeper	4	4	38	3	49
Winter Wren	0	0	1	0	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	5	7	48	25	85
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	0	2	1	5	8
Eastern Bluebird	0	11	4	0	15
Hermit Thrush	0	0	1	0	1
American Robin	64	147	352	310	873
American Pipit	4	20	176	44	244
Cedar Waxwing	18	0	36	16	70
Northern Shrike	0	0	4	1	5
European Starling	649	467	1,307	2,291	4,714
Yellow-rumped Warbler	0	1	1	4	6
Northern Cardinal	3	2	15	18	38
American Tree Sparrow	12	13	124	59	208
Field Sparrow	0	0	0	3	3
Chipping Sparrow	1	3	0	5	9
Fox Sparrow	0	0	7	0	7
Song Sparrow	6	7	12	21	46
Swamp Sparrow	4	0	0	1	5
White-throated Sparrow	1	0	6	5	12
White-crowned Sparrow	0	0	0	1	1
Dark-eyed Junco	26	30	72	27	155
Lapland Longspur	0	0	5	0	5
Snow Bunting	20	26	16	12	74
Red-winged Blackbird	1,132	827	2,191	1,823	5,973
Eastern Meadowlark	6	8	8	4	26
Rusty Blackbird	0	1	24	25	50
Common Grackle	8	54	67	37	166
Brown-headed Cowbird	13	1	23	0	37
Purple Finch	5	9	23	13	50
House Finch	5	20	41	47	113
Pine Siskin	0	0	40	6	46
American Goldfinch	101	68	235	206	610
Evening Grosbeak	0	0	9	0	9
House Sparrow	69	44	410	300	823
TOTAL SPECIES	60	68	83	98	118
PARTICIPANTS	20	12	18	19	69

Coordinators

Daniel St-Hilaire N.E.
Gerard Desjardins N.W.

Bob Bracken S.E.
Bruce Di Labio S.W.

Imaginary Birds of the Ottawa Valley

Part III: Fall

C. Lewis



FALL WEBFINCH

Bird Feeder Relocation

Lee Cairnie

The OFNC feeder at the Dolman Ridge Road site has been relocated from the parking lot on the north side to the Dewberry Trail parking lot on the south side of the road. NCC had to close off access to the parking lot on the north side because of vandalism and illegal dumping. The feeder can still be observed from the parking lot. ☐

Notice - Birds Committee Study Group

The Birds Committee has formed a study group that meets intermittently for advanced birding workshops. Because it is not always possible to schedule these activities in time for publication in "Coming Events," we ask that interested parties contact the Birds Status Line at 825-1231 if they wish to be notified of upcoming sessions. ☐

OFNC Web Site Update



As you may remember from the previous issue of *T&L*, page 93, we now have an active, continually updated web page. However, we have had to make a slight change to our address. Please note that you can reach our web site at:

<http://www.achilles.net/ofnc/index.htm>

Notice - Bird Counts Planned for the Ottawa-Hull District

The Ottawa-Hull Late Fall Bird Count is scheduled to begin at 3:00 p.m. Saturday, October 25th, and to run until 3:00 p.m. Sunday, October 26th. The count area will be the Ottawa District (50 km radius from the Peace Tower). This area is divided into four sectors by the Ottawa, Gatineau and Rideau Rivers. There are plenty of excellent birding spots to choose from and all birders of every skill level are welcome. Due to popular demand, on count evening, we will hold a compilation party at Riverpark Place, near Andrew Hayden Park. Refreshments will be served. To participate, the coordinator to call is Bruce Di Labio at 599-8733.

Check the results of last year's count which are in this issue.

1997 Ottawa-Hull Christmas Bird Count will be held on Sunday, December 21st. Members interested in participating should contact the coordinator, Daniel St-Hilaire at 766-0860. He will provide information on action time, sectors where counts will be made and the sector leaders.

At 4:00 p.m., after the count, there will be a meeting of all interested people involved to have a meal, review the events of the day and to compile an official summary of numbers and species of birds. Participants will be informed by the section leaders of the location for this get-together.

The Dunrobin Christmas Bird Count is scheduled for Sunday, January 4th. Prospective participants should contact Bruce Di Labio at 599-8733.

For both the Ottawa-Hull and the Dunrobin Count, Bev Scott (599-9330) will be coordinating all the information called in by feeder watchers.

The figures from the final count will be presented as the official Ottawa-Hull report to the National Audubon Society. As previously, participants will be asked to pay a fee of \$5.²⁵

Index to Volume 31

Amphibians and Reptiles

Red-eared Slider in the Ottawa River, A	157
-----------------------------------------------	-----

Birds

Bird Feeder Relocation	165
Birds of the Fletcher Wildlife Garden and Vicinity	124
Doug Tarry Bird Study Awards for Young Ornithologists, The	71
Imaginary Birds of the Ottawa Valley	6, 65, 164
Late Fall Bird Count 1996	161
Notice - Birds Committee Study Group	165
Notice - Bird Counts Planned for the Ottawa-Hull District	166
Summer and Fall Bird Sightings	72

Club History and Affairs

Annual Business Meeting, The 118th	36
Call for Nominations: The 1998 Council of The Ottawa Field- Naturalists' Club ..	150
Certificates of Appreciation	92
Coming Events	25, 77, 134, 169
"Golden Anniversary" Membership List 1930-1997	35
OFNC Committees for 1997	39
OFNC Web Site	93
OFNC Web Site Update	165
Progress in the Backyard Garden of the Fletcher Wildlife Garden	46
Richards Natural History Education Award	41
Soirée and the 1996 OFNC Awards, The 1997	87
Taverner Cup Birding Competition	70
Volunteers Wanted	3
Wanted! Mailing Team Coordinator	133
Welcome, New Members	2, 34, 86, 142

Conservation

Conservation Matters	21
FON Notes	43, 94, 143

Excursions

Algonquin Odyssey, The 1997	130
Looking Back at Birding and Butterfly Outings	4

Invertebrates

Breaking the Tension (wasp)	5
June Beetle Bonanza	148

Mammals

Checklist of the Mammals of the Ottawa District	15
-------------------------------------------------------	----

Plants

Flora of Ottawa River Emergent Beaches, The	109
Providence [Bur Oaks]	146
Rock Roses of the Ottawa District	96
There is no Past as Long as Ginkgos Live	51
Violets of the Ottawa District	53
White Oak (<i>Quercus alba</i>) in Southeastern Ontario and the Ottawa District	100
White Pine, The	12
Woodland Angelica (<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>) New to the Ottawa District and Ontario	151

Poems

American Elm	42
Anthropomorphism...Talking Turkey	99
Black Knight, The	108
Foragers Forever	147
Highway 416	91
House Fly	19
November and April	150
Shield	132
South-West Wind, A	20
T&L poems in Nero's New Book [book review]	144

Miscellaneous

Don't Throw Out Those Dead Animals	69
Field Assistant Volunteers Needed	24
Field Sketching	160
Hopkin's Hole	49
Special Interest in Field-Sketching	69

Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions & Lectures Committee.

For further information,
call the Club number (722-3050) after 10 a.m.

Times stated for excursions are departure times. Please arrive earlier; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to ask the leader. Restricted trips will be open to non-members only after the indicated deadlines.

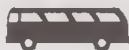
ALL OUTINGS: *Please bring a lunch on full-day trips and dress according to the weather forecast and the activity. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes are essential on all birding trips. Unless otherwise stated, transportation will be by car pool.*

REGISTERED BUS TRIPS: *Make your reservation for Club bus excursions by sending a cheque or money order (payable to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club) to E.M. Dickson, 2037 Honeywell Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K2A 0P7, at least ten days in advance. Include your name, address, telephone number and the name of the outing. Your cooperation is appreciated by the Committee so that we do not have to wait to the last moment to decide whether a trip should be cancelled due to low registration. We also wish to discourage the actual payment of bus fees on the day of the event.*

EVENTS AT THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE: *The Club is grateful to the Museum for their cooperation and thanks the Museum for the use of these excellent facilities. Club members must be prepared to show their membership cards to gain access for Club functions after regular museum hours.*

BIRD STATUS LINE: *Phone 860-9000 to learn of recent sightings or birding potential in the Ottawa area. To report recent sightings call Michael Tate at 825-1231. This service is run on behalf of the Birds Committee and is available to members and non-members.*

Le Club des Ornithologues de l'Outaouais has a similar service, in French, run by Daniel St-Hilaire. The Club number is 778-3413 and the Bird Status Line is 778-0737.



Sunday
5 October
8:30 a.m.
to
4:30 p.m.



BUS EXCURSION:

AUTUMN COLOURS AT MURPHY'S POINT

Leaders: Eileen Evans and Pearl Peterkin

Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.

Cost: \$10.00 (PLEASE REGISTER EARLY;

see Coming Events introduction for details).

Murphy's Point Provincial Park is situated on the scenic shores of Big Rideau Lake approximately 20 km west of Perth. The park is covered with a mixed forest type that should be rich in autumnal colours and which harbours a varied array of flora and fauna. There are a number of easy walking trails that we will explore on this leisurely day in scenic Lanark County.

Saturday
11 October
7:30 a.m.

WATERBIRDS AT THE CORNWALL POWER DAM

Leader: Bruce Di Labio

Meet: Elmvale Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, St. Laurent Boulevard at Smyth Road.

This will be a full-day outing to the American side of the Moses-Saunders Power Dam to observe various species of waterbirds (including ducks, grebes and gulls) that may be frequenting the waters at the power dam, Lake St. Lawrence and the nearby Wilson Hill Wildlife Management Area.

Please bring a lunch and warm clothing as well as a passport or proof of citizenship / residency for entry into the U.S.A.

Tuesday
14 October
8:00 p.m.

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING

HIDDEN TREASURES OF THE DEEP "OLD SOUTH"

Speaker: Dan Brunton

Meet: Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.

The U.S. Deep South is far more than orange juice, Mickey Mouse and ugly 1960s' newsreels. It's also an ecological wonderland which is enjoying a resurgence of interest from biologists, ecologists and conservationists. Dan's presentation will take us on a journey through the American southeast (from Virginia, the Carolinas and Georgia down to the northern panhandle of Florida) to explore natural areas that the tourists never see. From the fabulous swamplands that serve as primeval time capsules harbouring an amazing diversity of flora and fauna to the areas of unglaciated "flat rocks" that contain remnant vegetative communities more than nearly six million years old, Dan will lead us on an enthralling visual odyssey through the Land of Dixie.

Saturday
18 October
7:30 a.m.

FALL BIRDING ALONG THE OTTAWA RIVER

Leader: Ray Holland

Meet: Britannia Drive-In Theatre, 3090 Carling Avenue.

Participants will visit several locales along the Ottawa River on a half-day outing to observe waterfowl and other migrating species.

Sunday
2 November
8:00 a.m.

NOVEMBER MIGRANTS

Leader: Jim Harris

Meet: Westgate Shopping Centre, southeast corner of the parking lot, Carling Avenue.

Participants will be led on a quest for late fall raptors, passerines and some intriguing early winter arrivals that signal the cold, harsh days ahead. This is a half-day outing.

Saturday
8 November
9:00 a.m.

LATE FALL RAMBLE IN GATINEAU PARK

Leader: Philip Martin

Meet: Supreme Court Building front entrance, Wellington at Kent Street.

This general interest will focus on the identification of various nuts, fruits, seeds, fungi and other interesting forms of plant life. The occasional bird or mammal may be encountered along the trails. Bring a lunch and dress warmly.

Tuesday
11 November
8:00 p.m.

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING

PRESERVING NATURAL SCIENCE COLLECTIONS

Speaker: Robert Waller

Meet: Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.

Preserving rocks and dried plants? An easy job, right! To the contrary, Robert Waller, Chief of the Conservation Section at the Canadian Museum of Nature, will show how natural science collections are susceptible to deterioration by many forces including custodial neglect. Means of reducing risks, ranging from common sense precautions to advanced physical chemical methods, will be described. This unique presentation should appeal to anyone with an interest in how the Canadian Museum of Nature maintains our national heritage of natural science collections. It will also benefit anyone with an interest in general means of preserving any kind of collection.

Friday
21 November
2:00 p.m. to
4:00 p.m.

**VISIT TO THE INSECT COLLECTION AT
AGRICULTURE CANADA**

Leader: Dr. Henri Goulet

Meet: Foyer of the Neatby Building, 960 Carling Avenue
(across the street from the Civic Hospital's Melrose Lodge).
Dr. Goulet has kindly agreed to lead a tour of the
Department's colourful and fascinating Insect Collection.
This extensive reference facility serves as an invaluable
research collection for scientists and biologists alike and
many of the techniques employed in the preservation and
conservation of the collection will be explained in detail. The
tour will be limited to 15 participants. Please register before
November 18th at the Club number (722-3050). Philip Martin
will meet registrants in the lobby of the Neatby Building.

Sunday
7 December
8:00 a.m.

LATE FALL AND EARLY WINTER BIRDS

Leader: Tony Beck

Meet: Britannia Drive-In Theatre, 3090 Carling Avenue.
Participants will join Tony in search of lingering fall migrants
and various species of birds that choose to inhabit the
Ottawa District during Nature's harshest season. This is a
half-day outing.

Tuesday
9 December
8:00 p.m.

**OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
SUMMER ADVENTURES IN THE ARCTIC**

Speaker: Tony Beck

Meet: Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe
and McLeod Streets.

Experience the visual splendour and stunning natural
history of Canada's North as Tony takes us on a photo
journey to three very distinct locales. First, we will visit
Cambridge Bay, Victoria Island, with over 100 species of
wildflowers, muskoxen and avian specialties such as
Yellow-billed Loon, King Eider, Rock Ptarmigan and
Sabine's Gull. Next, we head to Churchill, Manitoba which
is the most accessible tundra in North America. This
renowned birder's mecca is situated on the edge of the
boreal forest where the fresh waters of the Churchill River
coverge with the salt waters of Hudson Bay. Lastly, we fly
over the Hudson Bay lowlands and adjacent waters of
Ontario's Polar Bear Provincial Park for aerial views of
walrus, beluga whales and, of course, polar bears. A canoe
trip reveals more of the rich flora and fauna. The beauty of
these regions is yours to behold!

Sunday
11 January
8:00 a.m.

WINTER BIRDING AT THE CORNWALL POWER DAM

Leader: Bruce Di Labio

Meet: Elmvale Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, St. Laurent Boulevard at Smyth Road. Overwintering gulls, waterfowl and seasonal species frequenting the vicinity of the Moses-Saunders Power Dam will be sought on this full-day outing. Bring a lunch, a warm drink and heavy winter clothing, as well as proof of citizenship. (We may travel to the American side of the dam.) Transportation will be by private car.

Tuesday
13 January
7:30 p.m.

OFNC 119th ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Meet: Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.

The 1998 Council will be elected at this meeting and a full disclosure of the Club's financial position will be given. In addition, there will be a short presentation on the history and activities of the Macoun Club. □

Any Articles for Trail & Landscape?

Have you been on an interesting field trip or made some unusual observations recently? Is there a colony of rare plants or a nesting site that needs protection? Write up your thoughts and send them to *Trail & Landscape*. If you have access to an IBM or IBM-compatible computer using 5.25 or 3.5 inch diskettes, all the better. If you don't, we will happily receive submissions in any form—typed, written, printed or painted!

URL of our site:



<http://www.achilles.net/ofnc/index.htm>



DEADLINE: Material intended for the January–March 1998 issue must be in the editor's hands by November 1, 1997. Mail your manuscripts to:

Fenja Brodo
Editor, *Trail & Landscape*
28 Benson Street
Nepean, Ontario, K2E 5J5
H: (613) 723-2054; Fax: (613) 364-4027.
e-mail fbrodo@cyberus.ca

ISSN 0041-0748

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

published by

THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB

Second Class Mail - Registration Number 2777

Postage paid in cash at Ottawa

Change of Address Notices and Undeliverable Copies:

Box 35069, Westgate P.O.,

Ottawa, Ont. K1Z 1A2

Return postage guaranteed

Printed by
LOMOR PRINTERS LTD.